



BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 21, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS:

Georgia Hanigan, Commissioner, Payette County – present via Zoom
Lyndon Haines, Commissioner, Washington County – present via Zoom
Keri Smith, Commissioner, Canyon County – present
Kelly Aberasturi, Commissioner, Owyhee County – present
Viki Purdy, Commissioner, Adams County – present
Sam Summers, MD, Physician Representative – present
Bryan Elliott, Commissioner, Gem County – present

STAFF MEMBERS:

In person: Nikki Zogg, Katrina Williams, Sam Kenney, Josh Campbell

Via Zoom: Troy Cunningham, Rachel Pollreis, Ashley Anderson, Doug Doney, Chuck Washington, Jaime Aanensen

GUESTS:

Guests viewed the live stream via SWDH You Tube page.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Bryan Elliott called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting attendees participated in the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Aberasturi – present; Dr. Summers – present; Chairman Elliott – present; Commissioner Hanigan – present via Zoom; Commissioner Purdy – present; Commissioner Haines – present via Zoom; Commissioner Smith – present

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS; APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Dr. Summers seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 24, 2021

MOTION: Commissioner Aberasturi made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 24, 2021 Board of Health meeting as presented. Chairman Elliott seconded the motion. Six in favor; one abstained; motion passes.

IN-PERSON PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public provided in-person public comment.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Canyon County issued an emergency declaration due to the area's hospitals' recent move to crisis standards of care. Gem County also reinstituted an emergency declaration through the end of the calendar year.

September 21, 2021

Commissioner Purdy voiced objection to pursuing work to improve access for youth to behavioral health resources, which was discussed at the Board of Health meeting in August. Nikki provided additional information about Southwest District Health's efforts to investigate and understand the current trends in youth behavioral health and to work with our community partners to address gaps that currently exist in the behavioral health system. The goal of Southwest District Health's efforts are to align and maximize resources and reduce gaps so youth in our community have access to the services they need. Southwest District Health does not intend to deliver youth crisis services or build any new government programs. Commissioner Purdy appreciated the clarification.

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE

Nikki provided an update on the impact of current COVID-19 case numbers across the six-county region Southwest District Health represents. Increased positivity rates and incidence rates are expected to continue for a few more weeks.

Board members asked about monoclonal antibody treatment sites. Nikki explained that the Governor recently announced that monoclonal antibody sites will be added to three areas of the state.

Commissioner Smith voiced challenges Canyon County has faced about the way the State of Idaho has chosen to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Board members and Nikki discussed encouraging the Governor to implement the state's pandemic response plan and stand up a structure using National Incident Management System (NIMS). Our state's first responders, including public health districts and hospitals, all follow the Incident Command System (ICS), an infrastructure for communication that helps coordinate resources and set shared objectives.

Chairman Elliott asked Board members for guidance on how to best convey this request to the State. Board members suggested Nikki write a letter to the State on behalf of SWDH but also share it with other public health districts. Nikki will share any correspondence she sends to the State with Board members and will include this topic for further discussion at next month's Board of Health meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

No new employees were introduced.

AUGUST 2021 EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE REPORT

Troy Cunningham, SWDH Financial manager, presented the August 2021 Expenditure and Revenue Report.

CONTRACT FUNDING SOURCE UPDATE

Troy Cunningham provided an updated contract funding source table to Board members.

WESTERN IDAHO COMMUNITY CRISIS CENTER QUARTERLY UPDATE

Sam Kenney provided the Quarter 1 report to Board members in the meeting packet. Sam pointed out a few highlights and explained that the Crisis Center quarter 1 was April, May, and June due to the opening date of the Crisis Center in 2019.

Daily utilization is trending down. The daily census is about eight which is down from twelve and about 80% of clients are coming from Canyon County. Sam also noted that the demographics are shifting to a higher percentage of older individuals.

Crisis center team members have been educating partners and law enforcement agencies to remind them of crisis center services and have stocked emergency departments with materials to help with diversion.

CLINIC SERVICES DIVISION UPDATE

Josh Campbell, Clinic Services Division Administrator, provided an update on clinic services. He explained the clinic's biggest challenge currently is staffing. Nurses are the most difficult to recruit.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD CONTRACT DISCUSSION

Nikki provided an update on the current status of the contract with the Behavioral Health Board (BHB). Nikki met with the BHB chair and vice-chair during a regularly scheduled meeting. There, it was agreed upon that the two organizations would provide their expectations of one another in writing. In a memo to the BHB, Nikki provided a list of expectations for a successful contractual relationship and requested the BHB supply their expectations of Southwest District Health. Chairman Elliott shared that one of the BHB members reached out to him and questioned if Southwest District Health could influence or request a change to the BHB leadership positions. Nikki is unsure about the legality of SWDH asking for a change in board leadership and suggested taking the issue to legal counsel. She clarified that the SWDH contract is with Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) not the BHB. Nikki anticipates waiting to see what BHB leadership requests in their letter of expectations.

Board members acknowledged the need to protect SWDH staff as well as maintain a working relationship with the BHB. Board members provided guidance to wait to receive the letter of expectations from the BHB and choose a path forward from there.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Opioid Settlement Update

Nikki shared that the Attorney General's Office is proposing a split of funds to litigating cities and counties. Under the terms, the health districts would need to participate and release opioid related claims against Defendants in order to receive funds. Nikki has communicated that SWDH is willing to do that.

House Bill 316 Update

Division of Human Resources (DHR) has communicated to public health district directors that they will pursue removing PHDs from the merit-based classification. Most of the public health districts are interested in using the system and similar processes that are in place, and have discussed two minor changes: moving some of the clinical positions into different pay grades and adding a few positions to build in opportunities for advancement that do not currently exist in some professions.

This transition may be delayed until June 2022 or later to ensure health districts have the appropriate infrastructure in place.

Public Health Symposium – Revised Date

The date for the Public Health Symposium has been moved to November 16, 2021 following the Board of Health meeting. The change was made due to the current high number of COVID-19 cases.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.



Nikole Zogg
Secretary to the Board



Bryan Elliott
Chairman

Dated: October 26, 2021